



City of Somerville

PLANNING, PRESERVATION & ZONING DIVISION

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

TO: Planning Board
FROM: Planning, Preservation & Zoning Staff
SUBJECT: 350 Assembly Row Second Neighborhood Meeting

This memo summarizes the second neighborhood meeting for 350 Assembly Row which is required by the Somerville Zoning Ordinance.

This neighborhood meeting was held on 5 October 2021 at 6:00pm. The meeting was held virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. The following individuals from the applicant team were present: Sarah Forde, Federal Realty; Patrick McMahon, Federal Realty; Andrew Murphy, Federal Realty; Sandy Carroll, Jacobs Consultants; Brian Cook, Jacobs Consultants; Michael Giardina, Jacobs Consultants; Andrew Arbaugh, Copley Wolff; Nicole Vance, Copley Wolff; Patrick Dunford, VHB; Dale Horsman, VHB.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to minutes, the Director of Planning, Preservation & Zoning shall keep a public record of the neighborhood meeting that includes, but may not be limited to:

- Copies of all materials provided by the applicant at the meeting
- A list of those persons and organizations contacted about the meeting and the manner and date of contact
- A roster or signature sheet of attendees at the meeting (see attendees below)

MINUTES

After a brief presentation on the project from the Applicant team, the following comments, questions, and concerns were discussed at the meeting:

Site

- Neighbors expressed concerns with the loss of the uses encouraged by the activation on the site, particularly the pickleball court and space for barbecue and picnic activities.
- Neighbors noted the lack of sufficient green and open spaces open for use by the public, particularly a dog park or dog run.
- Certain neighbors identified the need for open spaces that serve children and teens, with designated play areas including play structures and swings.
- Residents in the Alloy condominium building indicated dismay with the proposed construction, noting that it could potentially block some views of the Boston skyline.

Accessibility

- Neighbors expressed particular concern with safety of access, noting a need for safer crosswalks and raised crosswalks to enable access and slow traffic around the site. There was an additional call for speed bumps, particularly on Foley Street.
- Several neighbors expressed concern with the balance and safety of pedestrian and cyclist versus motor vehicle access to the site.

Use

- Several neighbors expressed concern with the lab use, inquiring if there was an identified tenant and expressing discomfort with a lab use that would deal with biohazardous materials.
- Some neighbors expressed the concern that there was too much parking provided at Assembly Square already, and questioned the provision of further parking for this building.
- Several neighbors expressed dismay at the loss of concerts and other events which had been organized for the site during the Covid period.

Utilities and Services

- Several neighbors indicated a concern with sufficiency of cellular communication service in the neighborhood, noting that it was currently extremely difficult to locate sufficient bandwidth for mobile communications.

Construction

- Multiple residents identified the presence of rats and the question of sanitation in general as an issue on the site, a concern that was expected to be amplified by the construction process.
- Neighbors asked for a rough outline of the expected start date and duration of construction activity on the site.

ATTENDEES

Matt McLaughlin	Elinor Wong	Evan Hackel
Joanne Dooley	Josh Stevens	Lucy Piantini
Olivia Yang	Joe Michaloso	Marie Noel
Sean Bernard		